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Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance: strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations

Egypt:* revised draft resolution

International cooperation on humanitarian assistance in the field of natural disasters, from relief to development

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolution 46/182 of 19 December 1991, the annex to which contains the guiding principles for the strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations system, as well as all its resolutions on international cooperation on humanitarian assistance in the field of natural disasters, from relief to development, and recalling the resolutions of the humanitarian segments of the substantive sessions of the Economic and Social Council,

Reaffirming also the principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence for the provision of humanitarian assistance,

Recalling the Sendai Declaration[1] and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030,[2] adopted by the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, held in Sendai, Japan, from 14 to 18 March 2015,

Recognizing that the Sendai Framework applies to the risk of small-scale and large-scale, frequent and infrequent, sudden and slow-onset disasters caused by natural or man-made hazards, as well as related environmental, technological and biological hazards and risks,

Noting with concern that slow-onset disasters such as droughts are on the rise in many places and can have significant impacts on affected populations and lead to increased vulnerability to other hazards,

* On behalf of States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China

[1] Resolution 69/283, annex I.

[2] Ibid., annex II.

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Recognizing the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction as the main forum at the global level for strategic advice coordination and partnership development for disaster risk reduction, and recognizing also the contribution of the relevant regional and subregional platforms,

Welcoming the Paris Agreement,[3] and encouraging all its parties to fully implement the Agreement, and parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change[4] that have not yet done so to deposit their instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, where appropriate, as soon as possible,

Looking forward to the Secretary-General's climate summit, to be held in New York in 2019, to accelerate global action on climate change,

Highlighting the synergies between the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development[5] and the Paris Agreement, and noting with concern the scientific findings contained in the special report entitled *Global Warming of 1.5°C* of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change,

Noting with appreciation the hosting by the Government of Morocco of the twenty-second session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the twelfth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol and the first part of the first session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement, held in Marrakech, Morocco, from 7 to 18 November 2016, and noting with appreciation also the convening by the Government of Fiji, with the technical assistance of the Government of Germany, of the twenty-third session of the Conference of the Parties, the thirteenth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol and the second part of the first session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement, held in Bonn, Germany, from 6 to 17 November 2017,

Noting with appreciation also the hosting by the Government of Mexico of the fifth session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, held in Cancun, Mexico, from 22 to 26 May 2017, and looking forward to the upcoming sixth session of the Global Platform, to be hosted by Switzerland in Geneva in 2019, and taking note of the second Central Asia and South Caucasus Subregional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, hosted by the Government of Armenia, on 26 to 27 June 2018,

Taking note of its resolution 71/1 of 19 September 2016, in which the General Assembly adopted the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants and the annexes thereto,

Emphasizing the fundamentally civilian character of humanitarian assistance, reaffirming, in situations in which military capacity and assets are used as a last resort to support the implementation of humanitarian assistance in the field of natural disasters, the need for their use to be undertaken with the consent of the affected State and in conformity with international law, including international humanitarian law, as well as humanitarian principles, and emphasizing also in this regard the need for Member States to coordinate with all relevant actors early on in a disaster response so as to ensure the predictable, coherent and needs-based deployment of military assets and personnel supporting humanitarian assistance,

Emphasizing also that the affected State has the primary responsibility in the initiation, organization, coordination and implementation of humanitarian assistance

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[3] Adopted under the UNFCCC in FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21.

[4] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

[5] Resolution 70/1.

within its territory and in the facilitation of the work of humanitarian organizations in mitigating the consequences of natural disasters,

Emphasizing further the primary responsibility of each State to undertake disaster risk reduction, including preparedness, and disaster risk management, including through the voluntary implementation of and follow-up to the Sendai Framework, as well as response and early recovery efforts, in order to minimize the impact of disasters, while recognizing the importance of international cooperation in support of the efforts of affected countries which may have limited capacities in this regard,

Noting the convening of the International Conference on the Implementation of the Health Aspects of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, in Bangkok on 10 and 11 March 2016, which adopted the Bangkok Principles for the implementation of the health aspects of the Sendai Framework as a contribution to the Sendai Framework to build resilient health systems,

Recognizing the primary role of Member States in preparing for and responding to outbreaks of infectious disease, including those that become humanitarian crises, in compliance with the International Health Regulations (2005) adopted by the World Health Assembly,[6] highlighting the critical role played by Member States, the World Health Organization as the directing and coordinating authority on international health work, the United Nations humanitarian system, regional organizations, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and other humanitarian actors in providing financial, technical and in-kind support in order to bring epidemics or pandemics under control, and recognizing also the need to strengthen local and national health systems, early reporting and early warning systems, preparedness, cross-sectoral response capacities, and resilience linked to outbreaks of infectious disease, including through capacity-building for developing countries,

Expressing its deep concern at the increasing challenges to Member States and to the United Nations humanitarian response capacity to deal with the consequences of natural disasters, given the effects of global challenges, including the impact of climate change, the adverse impacts of the global financial and economic crisis and volatile food prices on food security and nutrition, and other key factors that exacerbate the vulnerability of populations and exposure to natural hazards and the impact of natural disasters,

Expressing its deep concern also that rural and urban poor communities in the developing world are the hardest hit by the effects of increased disaster risk,

Noting with concern that women, persons with disabilities, older persons, children and youth are disproportionately affected in natural disasters,

Acknowledging the impacts of rapid urbanization in the context of natural disasters and the adverse effects of climate change and that urban disaster preparedness and responses require appropriate disaster risk reduction strategies, including in urban planning, early action, rapid response and early recovery strategies implemented from the initial stage of relief operations, as well as mitigation, rehabilitation and sustainable development strategies, giving special attention to the needs and capacities of persons in vulnerable situations, and that action by humanitarian and development actors in urban areas needs to recognize the complexity of cities and build urban resilience, with improved urban expertise and capacities within organizations, while building on the capabilities, opportunities and potential new partnerships present in cities and other human settlements,

[6] World Health Organization, document WHA58/2005/REC/1, resolution 58.3, annex.

Reaffirming the adoption of the outcome document entitled "New Urban Agenda" at the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), held in Quito from 17 to 20 October 2016,[7] and in this regard noting the commitments therein undertaken by Member States regarding affected populations in urban areas, and noting also the importance of implementing policies to ensure more effective disaster risk reduction, including preparedness, and disaster risk management,

Recognizing that local communities are the first responders in most disasters, underlining the critical role played by in-country capacities in disaster risk reduction, including preparedness, and capacity-building for community resilience, as well as response and recovery, and acknowledging the need to support the efforts of Member States to develop and enhance national and local capacities which are fundamental to improving the overall delivery of humanitarian assistance,

Stressing the need for all relevant actors involved in international responses to natural disasters to ensure that such responses are tailored to context, make use of appropriate tools and support local systems, including by building on local expertise and capacities,

Recognizing the adverse effects of climate change as contributors to environmental degradation and extreme weather events, which may, in certain instances, among other factors, contribute to disaster-induced human mobility,

Recognizing also the high numbers of persons affected by natural disasters, including in this respect displaced persons,

Reaffirming the importance of international cooperation in support of the efforts of the affected States in dealing with natural disasters in all their phases, in particular in preparedness, response and the early recovery phase, and of strengthening the response capacity of countries affected by disaster,

Recognizing the importance of sharing and making use of effective practices as part of transboundary cooperation in preparation for cross-border disaster situations, such as simulation exercises or preparedness or evacuation drills,

Recognizing also that scientific advancements can contribute to the effective forecasting of extreme weather events, which allows for a more accurate prediction and early warning of such events, leading to early action,

Recognizing further the progress made by the United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER) in its mission,

Noting the progress made by and the role of the Global Framework for Climate Services in developing and providing science-based climate information and prediction for climate risk management and for adaptation to climate variability and change, and looking forward to continued progress in this regard, including to address identified gaps in coordinating and enabling partnerships,

Welcoming the important role played by Member States, including developing countries, that have granted necessary and continued generous assistance to countries and peoples stricken by natural disasters,

Recognizing the significant role played by national Red Cross and Red Crescent societies, as part of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, in disaster preparedness and risk reduction, disaster response, rehabilitation and development,

[7] Resolution 71/256, annex.

Recognizing also the significant achievements of the Central Emergency Response Fund in facilitating life-saving assistance to crisis-affected people by providing timely funding, enabling humanitarian organizations and their implementing partners to act quickly when tragedy strikes and steer resources to crises that do not receive the attention that they need and deserve, emphasizing the need to broaden and diversify the income base of the Fund, and welcoming in this regard the call by the Secretary-General to achieve an annual funding level of 1 billion United States dollars,

Emphasizing the need to address vulnerability and to integrate disaster risk reduction, including prevention, mitigation and preparedness, into all phases of natural disaster management, post-natural disaster recovery and development planning through close collaboration of all relevant actors and sectors,

Reaffirming that strengthening resilience contributes to withstanding, adapting to and quickly recovering from disasters,

Reaffirming also the importance of considering increasing investment in building the resilience of communities, which can be the first line of response,

Recognizing the changing scope, scale and complexity of humanitarian crises, including natural disasters, and their adverse impact on efforts to achieve economic growth, sustainable development and internationally agreed development goals, in particular the Sustainable Development Goals,[8] and noting the positive contribution that these efforts can make in strengthening the resilience and preparedness of populations to such disasters and reducing displacement risk in the context of disasters,

Recognizing also the clear relationship between emergency response, rehabilitation and development, and reaffirming that, in order to ensure a smooth transition from relief to rehabilitation and development, emergency assistance must be provided in ways that will be supportive of short-term and medium-term recovery, leading to long-term development, and that certain emergency measures should be seen as a step towards sustainable development,

Emphasizing, in this context, the important role of development organizations, international financial institutions and other relevant stakeholders in supporting national efforts to prepare for and mitigate the consequences of natural disasters,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General;[9]

2. *Expresses its deep concern* at the increasing impact of natural disasters, resulting in massive losses of life and property worldwide and, in some instances, displacement, in particular in vulnerable societies lacking adequate capacity to mitigate effectively the long-term negative social, economic and environmental consequences of natural disasters;

3. *Reaffirms* the importance of implementing the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030,[2] to ensure the substantial reduction of disaster risk and losses in lives, livelihoods and health and in the economic, physical, social, cultural and environmental assets of persons, businesses, communities and countries, and underlines the importance of tackling the underlying disaster risk drivers and of integrating a disaster risk reduction perspective into humanitarian assistance and development assistance programmes, as appropriate, to prevent new and reduce existing disaster risk;

[8] See resolution 70/1.
[9] A/73/343.

4. *Encourages* the United Nations to continue to increase its support for Member States in their prioritized implementation of the Sendai Framework, including through the revised United Nations Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience: Towards a Risk-informed and Integrated Approach to Sustainable Development, in line with the Sendai Framework, to ensure that the implementation of the Sendai Framework most effectively contributes to a risk-informed and integrated approach to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[8] in particular through building resilience against disasters, reducing displacement risk in the context of disasters and supporting national and local preparedness and response capacities;

5. *Emphasizes* the need to promote and strengthen disaster risk reduction and preparedness activities at all levels, in particular in hazard-prone areas, and encourages Member States, the United Nations system and other relevant humanitarian and development actors to continue to increase funding and cooperation for disaster risk reduction activities, including the strengthening of preparedness and mitigation, as well as for responding to disasters;

6. *Encourages* Member States, in line with the call in the Sendai Framework, to promote disaster risk reduction, including prevention, mitigation and preparedness, response and recovery with a view to ensuring a rapid and effective response to disasters and to promoting international cooperation to build resilience and reduce disaster risk;

7. *Also encourages* Member States to provide dedicated financial contributions to disaster risk reduction, including prevention, mitigation and preparedness, as well as early action, rapid response and recovery efforts, in a harmonized, flexible and complementary approach that fully utilizes and helps to coordinate humanitarian and development funding options and potential;

8. *Calls upon* all States to adopt, where required, and to continue to implement effectively, necessary legislative and other appropriate measures to mitigate the effects of natural disasters and integrate disaster risk reduction strategies into development planning, as well as to incorporate a gender perspective into policies, planning and funding, and in this regard requests the international community to continue to assist developing countries as well as countries with economies in transition, as appropriate;

9. *Acknowledges* that climate change, among other factors, contributes to environmental degradation and to the increase in the intensity and frequency of climate and extreme weather events, both of which amplify disaster risk and contribute to displacement risk in the context of disasters, and in this regard encourages Member States, as well as relevant international, regional and subregional organizations, in accordance with their specific mandates, to support adaptation to the adverse effects of climate change, to strengthen disaster risk reduction and to substantially increase the availability of and access to multi-hazard early warning systems in order to minimize the humanitarian consequences of natural disasters, including through the provision of technology and support for capacity-building in developing countries;

10. *Urges* the United Nations, relevant humanitarian and development organizations, international financial institutions and other relevant stakeholders to strengthen the capacity and resilience of Member States, including through capacity-building for community resilience, the application of new science and technology and investments in the context of disasters and climate change;

11. *Encourages* Member States to address the humanitarian and development needs arising from natural disaster-induced displacement, including through national

policies and resilience-building, and in this regard encourages Member States, supported by the United Nations, to develop national laws and policies on internal displacement, as appropriate, which address such displacement, detail responsibilities and measures to minimize the impact of disasters, protect and assist internally displaced persons following disasters and identify, promote and support safe, dignified and durable solutions, and in this respect encourages Member States to adopt standards, as appropriate, in line with the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement,[10] the Framework on Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee[11] and the basic principles and guidelines on development-based evictions and displacement;[12]

12. *Calls upon* Member States, the United Nations and humanitarian and development organizations to integrate the building of resilience and human mobility into relevant strategies, plans and legal frameworks, in particular regarding disaster risk management and climate change adaptation, as integral elements of sustainable development at the national and regional levels so as to help to prevent and mitigate displacement in the context of disasters and the adverse effects of climate change, including in urban settings where displaced persons have particular needs, requirements and vulnerabilities, and to enhance cooperation and coordination, where appropriate, to comprehensively and coherently respond to such displacement including by preventing, preparing for and addressing it;

13. *Recognizes* the increase in the number and scale of natural disasters, including those related to the adverse effects of climate change, which in certain instances may contribute to displacement and to additional pressure on host communities, encourages Member States, the United Nations and relevant organizations and actors to further strengthen the efforts aimed at addressing the needs of persons displaced in the context of disasters, including those induced by climate change, and notes in this regard the importance of sharing best practices on prevention and preparation for such displacements, and on the collection of data on such displacement and on durable solutions;

14. *Encourages* Member States, the United Nations, relevant humanitarian and development organizations and other relevant stakeholders, as appropriate, to enhance understanding, analysis, monitoring and assessment of the drivers, scale, dynamics, effects, patterns and duration of displacement in the context of slow-onset disasters, gradual environmental degradation and climate change, to strengthen the systematic, impartial and timely collection and sharing of data disaggregated by sex, age and disability and to strengthen evidence-based policy and operational responses at all levels in this regard, including to address the root causes of such displacement and strengthen the resilience of displaced persons and their host communities;

15. *Encourages* Member States to consider regional and cross-border perspectives in the development of disaster risk reduction strategies;

16. *Also encourages* Member States to strengthen operational and legal frameworks for international disaster relief and initial recovery, to adopt and implement national laws and regulations, as appropriate, to reduce the impact of the underlying drivers of disaster risk and vulnerability, and to adopt comprehensive rules and procedures for the facilitation and regulation of international disaster assistance, drawing, as appropriate, from the Guidelines for the Domestic Facilitation and Regulation of International Disaster Relief and Initial Recovery Assistance, and calls upon the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, relevant United

[10] E/CN.4/1998/53/Add.2, annex.
[11] A/HRC/13/21/Add.4.
[12] A/HRC/4/18, annex I.

Nations organizations and other partners for technical support in achieving these aims;

17. *Welcomes* the effective cooperation among the affected States, relevant bodies of the United Nations system, donor countries, regional and international financial institutions and other relevant stakeholders, such as the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, municipalities, civil society and the private sector, in the coordination and delivery of emergency relief, and stresses the need to continue such cooperation and delivery throughout relief operations and medium- and long-term rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts, in a manner that reduces vulnerability to future natural hazards;

18. *Reiterates* the commitment to support, as a matter of priority, the efforts of countries, in particular developing countries, to strengthen their capacities at all levels in order to assess and reduce risks, prepare for and respond rapidly to natural disasters and mitigate their impact;

19. *Also reiterates* the need to build the capacities of governments to manage and respond to disaster and climate risks, including by providing support for and strengthening national and, as appropriate, local preparedness and response capacities, and to build resilience, taking into account the differing needs of women, girls, boys and men of all ages, including persons with disabilities;

20. *Underlines* the need to address the economic, social and environmental impacts of climate change, and emphasizes the need for action at all levels to enhance efforts to build resilience through, inter alia, the sustainable management of ecosystems, in order to reduce the impacts and costs of natural disasters;

21. *Urges* Member States to develop, update and strengthen early warning systems, disaster preparedness, and risk reduction measures at all levels, in accordance with the Sendai Framework, taking into account their own circumstances and capacities and in coordination with relevant actors, as appropriate, and to improve their response to early warning information in order to ensure that early warning leads to early action, implemented effectively in a timely manner, including through scaled up, predictable and multi-year support, such as forecast-based financing and other anticipatory risk financing instruments, and encourages all stakeholders to support the efforts of Member States in this regard;

22. *Urges* Member States, the United Nations and humanitarian and development organizations to continue to support early warning and early action efforts, including through forecast-based financing at the global, regional and national levels, including for multi-hazard early warning systems, climate services, exposure and vulnerability mapping, new technologies and communication protocols, so that persons in vulnerable situations who are exposed to natural hazards, including in geographically remote locations, receive timely, reliable, accurate and actionable early warning information, and encourages the international community to further support national efforts in this regard;

23. *Encourages* the United Nations, humanitarian and development organizations, the private sector and other relevant stakeholders to support, as appropriate, the efforts of Member States to address the underlying vulnerability and root causes of disaster risk and to work towards ensuring financing support that is coherent, layered and sequenced;

24. *Encourages* Member States to develop or enhance forecast-based preparedness and early action and rapid response systems, including through the establishment and networking of risk management centres, as well as the coordination of existing networks, ensure that comprehensive procedures are in place and make

resources available for actions in anticipation of natural disasters, and invites relevant bodies of the United Nations system and other stakeholders to engage in these efforts;

25. *Also encourages* Member States to consider elaborating and presenting to the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction secretariat their national platforms for disaster risk reduction in accordance with the Sendai Framework, and encourages States to cooperate with each other to reach this objective;

26. *Encourages* Members States, the United Nations and humanitarian and development organizations, in accordance with their respective mandates, to provide in a coordinated manner, support for national and regional efforts by providing, in the context of natural disasters, the assistance necessary to increase food production and access to healthy and nutritious food and its utilization, while fully respecting the humanitarian principles for humanitarian action;

27. *Recognizes* the importance of applying a multi-hazard approach to preparedness, and encourages Member States, taking into account their specific circumstances, and the United Nations system to continue to apply the approach to their preparedness activities, including by giving due regard to, inter alia, secondary environmental hazards stemming from industrial and technological accidents;

28. *Stresses* that, to increase further the effectiveness of humanitarian assistance, particular international cooperation efforts should be undertaken to enhance and broaden further the utilization of national and local capacities and, where appropriate, of regional and subregional capacities for disaster preparedness and response, which may be made available in closer proximity to the site of a disaster, and more efficiently and at lower cost;

29. *Acknowledges* that the recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction phase, which needs to be prepared ahead of a disaster, is a critical opportunity to "Build Back Better";

30. *Encourages* Member States, the United Nations and other relevant stakeholders to continue to support the localization of disaster preparedness and response and work to ensure that national and local actors are enabled to respond to community-level needs and priorities and strengthen collaboration between international, national, local and regional actors with a view to reinforcing national and local capacities, leadership and coordination mechanism;

31. *Encourages* Member States and the United Nations to continue to implement community engagement approaches through which communities receive timely information and which can improve the targeting of humanitarian assistance;

32. *Encourages* Member States and regional organizations to work together to strengthen regional cooperation to improve national and regional capacity to understand and reduce risks and prepare for and respond to disasters in support of national efforts, including by exchanging experiences and best practices;

33. *Encourages* Member States to move from reactive to more anticipatory risk-based, multi-hazard and inclusive approaches, such as the promotion of ex ante investments to prevent disaster risks and build resilience, the promotion of environmental and spatial measures and the integration of lessons from past disasters, as well as awareness of new risks, into future planning;

34. *Encourages* innovative practices that draw on the knowledge of people affected by natural disasters to develop locally sustainable solutions and to produce lifesaving items locally, with minimal logistical and infrastructure implications;

35. *Stresses*, in this context, the importance of strengthening international cooperation, particularly through the effective use of multilateral mechanisms, in the

timely provision of humanitarian assistance through all phases of a disaster, from relief and recovery to development, including the provision of adequate resources;

36. *Encourages* all relevant stakeholders, including Member States, to take appropriate measures to reduce and discourage the sending of unsolicited, unneeded or inappropriate relief goods in response to disasters;

37. *Encourages* all Member States to facilitate, to the extent possible, the transit of emergency humanitarian assistance and development assistance and the entry of humanitarian personnel and supplies, provided in the context of international efforts, including in the phase from relief to development, in full accordance with the provisions of resolution 46/182 and the annex thereto, and in full respect of the humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence, and their obligations under international law, including international humanitarian law;

38. *Encourages* Member States to put in place, as appropriate, customs measures to improve effectiveness in responding to natural disasters;

39. *Reaffirms* the leading role of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat as the focal point within the overall United Nations system for the advocacy for and coordination of humanitarian assistance among United Nations humanitarian organizations and other humanitarian partners;

40. *Welcomes* the important contribution of the United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination system to the effectiveness of humanitarian assistance in supporting Member States, upon their request, and the United Nations system in preparedness and humanitarian response, and encourages the continued incorporation into this mechanism of experts from developing countries that are prone to natural disasters;

41. *Also welcomes* the important contribution of the International Search and Rescue Advisory Group to the effectiveness of international urban search and rescue assistance and encourages Member States to continue to support the Advisory Group, in line with General Assembly resolution 57/150 of 16 December 2002;

42. *Urges* Member States, the United Nations system and other humanitarian actors to consider the specific and differentiated consequences of natural disasters in both rural and urban areas when designing and implementing disaster risk reduction, prevention and mitigation, preparedness, humanitarian assistance and early recovery strategies, giving special emphasis to addressing the needs of those living in rural and urban poor areas prone to natural disasters;

43. *Encourages* Member States, the United Nations and humanitarian and development organizations, in accordance with their respective mandates, and other relevant stakeholders to continue to take concrete action for the effective implementation of the New Urban Agenda,[7] in order to strengthen resilience to disasters and the adverse effects of climate change, and ensure that sustainable development in urban settings is informed by disaster risk, giving special attention to the needs and capacities of persons in vulnerable situations;

44. *Welcomes* the continued efforts of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs to build partnerships with regional organizations, traditional and non-traditional donors and the private sector, and encourages Member States and the United Nations system to continue to strengthen partnerships at the global, regional, national and local levels in support of national efforts in situations of natural disasters, in order to cooperate effectively in providing humanitarian assistance to those in need and ensure that their collaborative efforts adhere to the principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence;

45. *Encourages* Member States, the United Nations and humanitarian and development organizations to increase efforts to engage the private sector, including small and medium-sized enterprises, as appropriate, through strategic partnerships in disaster risk reduction activities;

46. *Recognizes* that information and telecommunications technology can play an important role in disaster response, encourages Member States to develop emergency response telecommunications capacities that are accessible to all, including persons with disabilities, encourages the international community to assist the efforts of developing countries in this area, where needed, including in the recovery phase, and in this regard encourages Member States that have not acceded to or ratified the Tampere Convention on the Provision of Telecommunication Resources for Disaster Mitigation and Relief Operations[13] to consider doing so;

47. *Encourages* the further use of space-based and ground-based remote-sensing technologies, including as provided by the United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER), as well as the sharing of geographical data, for the forecasting, prevention, mitigation and management of natural disasters, where appropriate, and invites Member States to continue to provide their support to the consolidation of the United Nations capability in the area of satellite-derived geographical information for early warning, preparedness, response and early recovery;

48. *Encourages* Member States to provide all support necessary, on a voluntary basis, to UN-SPIDER, including financial support, to enable it to carry out its workplan for 2018–2019, and reiterates the importance of enhancing international coordination and cooperation at the global level in disaster management and emergency response through greater access to and use of space-based services for all countries and by facilitating capacity-building and institutional strengthening for disaster management, in particular in developing countries;

49. *Recognizes* the opportunities for new technologies, when utilized in a coordinated fashion and based on humanitarian principles, potentially to improve the effectiveness and accountability of humanitarian response, and encourages Member States, the United Nations and its humanitarian partners to consider engaging, inter alia, with the volunteer and technical communities, as appropriate, in order to make use of the variety of data and information available during emergencies and disaster risk reduction efforts to strengthen the evidence-based shared understanding of disaster risk and impacts and to work to improve efficiencies in this regard;

50. *Encourages* the United Nations to continue to strengthen its provision of data-related services and policy advice and build the data skills of its humanitarian staff, in order to improve the effectiveness of disaster preparedness and response;

51. *Encourages* Member States, relevant United Nations organizations and international financial institutions to enhance the global capacity for sustainable post disaster recovery in areas such as coordination with traditional and non-traditional partners, identification and dissemination of lessons learned, development of common tools and mechanisms for recovery needs assessment, strategy development and programming, and incorporation of disaster risk reduction into all recovery processes, and welcomes the ongoing efforts to this end;

52. *Encourages* Member States and the United Nations system to support national initiatives that address the differentiated impacts of natural disasters on the affected population, including through the collection and analysis of data disaggregated, inter alia, by sex, age and disability, using, inter alia, the existing

[13] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2296, No. 40906.

information provided by States, and through the development of tools, methods and procedures that will result in more timely and useful initial needs assessments that lead to targeted and more effective assistance, and taking into account the environmental impact;

53. *Calls upon* United Nations humanitarian organizations, in consultation with Member States, as appropriate, to strengthen the evidence base for effective humanitarian assistance by further developing common mechanisms to improve the quality, transparency and reliability of, and make further progress towards, common humanitarian needs assessments, to assess their performance in assistance and to ensure the most effective use of humanitarian resources by these organizations;

54. *Encourages* Member States to take steps to develop or to improve data collection and analysis and to facilitate the exchange of relevant non-sensitive information with humanitarian and development organizations of the United Nations, including through shared platforms and a common approach, in order to inform policy and measures designed to address disaster risks and their consequences, to support preparedness efforts, including forecast-based action and financing and disaster risk financing, and to improve the effectiveness and accountability of a needs-based humanitarian response, and encourages the United Nations system, as appropriate, and other relevant actors to continue to assist developing countries in their efforts to build local and national capacities for data collection and analysis;

55. *Also encourages* Member States, with support from the United Nations upon request, to establish and strengthen national disaster loss databases, risk profiles and available capacities and to continue to collect, share and use such data to inform relevant policies and strategies;

56. *Encourages* Member States, regional organizations, the United Nations and humanitarian and development organizations to continue to improve the identification, mapping and analysis of risks and vulnerabilities, including the local impact of future disaster risk drivers, and the development and implementation of appropriate strategies and programmes to address them, and in this regard encourages all the relevant stakeholders to support Governments in capacity development, including at the regional and local levels, through the sharing of expertise and tools and the provision of necessary resources, as appropriate, to ensure that effective disaster management plans and capacities are in place in accordance with national priorities for disaster risk management;

57. *Stresses* the importance of the full and equal participation of women in decision-making and of gender mainstreaming in developing and implementing disaster risk reduction, preparedness, early action, rapid response and recovery strategies, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to continue to ensure that gender mainstreaming is better taken into account in all aspects of humanitarian responses and activities, including the analysis of allocations and programme implementation, and through greater use of the Gender with Age Marker;

58. *Encourages* Member States, in cooperation with relevant United Nations humanitarian organizations, to promote women's leadership, empowerment and full and effective participation in the planning and implementation of natural disaster response strategies, including through strengthening partnerships with, and building the capacities of, national and local institutions, including national and local women's organizations and civil society actors, as appropriate;

59. *Encourages* Governments, local authorities, the United Nations system and regional organizations, and invites donors and other assisting countries, to address the vulnerabilities and capacities of women and girls through gender-responsive programming, including with regard to sexual and reproductive health

needs and means to address sexual and gender-based violence and various forms of exploitation during emergencies and in post-disaster environments, and the allocation of resources in their disaster risk reduction, response and recovery efforts in coordination with the Governments of affected countries;

60. *Emphasizes* the importance of mainstreaming the perspective of persons with disabilities in disaster risk reduction,, and recognizes the importance of non-discrimination and their inclusive and active participation in and contribution to disaster risk reduction, preparedness, emergency response, recovery and transition from relief to development, as well as the implementation of systematic approaches, policies and programmes that are inclusive of and accessible to persons with disabilities, recognizing that persons with disabilities are disproportionately affected in humanitarian emergencies and face multiple obstacles in accessing humanitarian assistance, and recalls the Charter on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action;

61. *Encourages* efforts to provide safe and enabling learning environments and access to quality education for all, especially for girls and boys, in humanitarian emergencies caused by natural disasters, including in order to contribute to a smooth transition from relief to development;

62. *Encourages* Member States and relevant regional and international organizations to identify and improve the dissemination of best practices for improving disaster preparedness, response and early recovery and to scale up successful local initiatives, as appropriate;

63. *Requests* the United Nations humanitarian and development organizations to improve their coordination of disaster recovery efforts, from relief to development, inter alia, by strengthening institutional, coordination and strategic planning efforts in disaster preparedness, resilience-building and recovery, in support of national authorities, and by ensuring that development actors participate in strategic planning at an early stage;

64. *Encourages* the United Nations and humanitarian and development organizations to support national, subnational and local governments and communities in their responsibility to develop long-term strategies, forecast-based financing and preparedness systems and multi-year operational plans for preparedness that are embedded within disaster risk reduction and resilience strategies in line with the Sendai Framework;

65. *Calls upon* the United Nations system and other humanitarian actors to improve the dissemination of tools and services to support enhanced disaster risk reduction, in particular preparedness, early action, rapid response and early recovery;

66. *Calls upon* relevant United Nations humanitarian and development organizations, in consultation with Member States, to strengthen tools and mechanisms to ensure that early recovery needs and support are integrated into the planning and implementation of disaster preparedness, humanitarian response and development cooperation activities, as appropriate;

67. *Encourages* the United Nations system and humanitarian organizations to continue their efforts to mainstream early recovery into humanitarian programming, acknowledges that early recovery is an important step towards resilience-building and should receive further funding, and encourages the provision of timely, flexible and predictable funding for early recovery, including through established and complementary humanitarian and development instruments;

68. *Urges* Member States, the United Nations and humanitarian and development organizations to prioritize risk management and shift towards an

anticipatory approach to humanitarian crises in order to prevent and reduce human suffering and economic losses;

69. *Urges* Member States, humanitarian and development organizations and other stakeholders to ensure a comprehensive and coherent approach at the global, regional, national and local levels to El Niño and La Niña phenomena and similar or related events, including by strengthening forecasting, early warning and early action, prevention, preparedness, resilience-building and timely response, supported by effective leadership and predictable, adequate and early funding, when feasible, in regions, countries and communities likely to be affected, and notes the work of the Special Envoys of the Secretary-General on El Niño and Climate and the blueprint for action prepared by them, and the standard operating procedures for El Niño/Southern Oscillation events of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee;

70. *Encourages* Member States and the United Nations to enhance the use of common risk analysis, including the use of the Index for Risk Management, to establish the evidence base for short-, medium- and long-term planning and joint strategies for disaster and climate risk management, capacity development and resilience-building, allowing for greater prioritization of resources where the risk is greatest;

71. *Encourages* the United Nations and humanitarian and development organizations to work towards a common understanding of underlying risks, clarify roles and responsibilities according to their respective mandates and establish joint objectives and programmes informed by affected people, data and analysis to strengthen coordination, collaboration and coherence among short-, medium- and long-term activities to progressively reduce needs and vulnerability, build resilience and manage the risk related to climate change and of disasters and development setbacks over multi-year planning cycles, including through integrating risk management into national sustainable development plans and ensuring the connectivity of humanitarian plans with the longer-term sustainable development priorities of Member States, with a view to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals;[8]

72. *Stresses* the need to strengthen resilience at all levels, and in this regard encourages Member States, the United Nations system and other relevant actors to support efforts, as appropriate, to integrate resilience into humanitarian and development programming, and encourages humanitarian and development actors to pursue, where appropriate, common resilience and risk management objectives, achievable through joint analysis, planning, programming and funding;

73. *Encourages* Member States, international financial institutions and the private sector to support further development and, where appropriate, the strengthening of anticipatory financing approaches, to mobilize predictable and multi-year support and to work collectively towards common results in order to reduce need, risk and vulnerability, making use of a wide range of financing flows and instruments and partnerships to mobilize additional resources in the field of natural disasters;

74. *Calls upon* Member States, the United Nations and humanitarian organizations to provide emergency assistance in ways that are supportive of recovery and long-term development, in collaboration with development organizations, as appropriate, in accordance with their respective mandates, including by prioritizing humanitarian tools and approaches that strengthen resilience, including preparedness, and support livelihoods, and to support further development and, where appropriate, the strengthening of anticipatory financing approaches, such as, but not limited to, cash transfers, vouchers, local procurement of food and services and social safety nets;

75. *Encourages* the United Nations system and other relevant humanitarian and development actors to support humanitarian coordinators and resident coordinators in order to strengthen their capacity, inter alia, to support the host Government in implementing preparedness measures and to coordinate preparedness activities of country teams in support of national efforts, and encourages the United Nations system and other relevant humanitarian actors to further strengthen the ability to quickly and flexibly deploy humanitarian professionals to support Governments and country teams in the immediate aftermath of a disaster;

76. *Encourages* Member States, the United Nations and humanitarian and development organizations to identify ways to improve the current financing architecture in order to better provide coherent, predictable and flexible longer-term funding for risk management in multi-year strategies and forecasting, in particular preparedness, on the basis of a global assessment of risk, allowing for better prioritization of resources where the risk is greatest;

77. *Emphasizes* the need to mobilize adequate, flexible and sustainable resources for, preparedness and disaster risk reduction, early action, rapid response and early recovery activities in order to ensure predictable and timely access to resources for humanitarian assistance in emergencies resulting from disasters associated with natural hazards;

78. *Welcomes* the important achievements of the Central Emergency Response Fund in ensuring a more timely and predictable response to humanitarian emergencies, stresses the importance of continuing to improve the functioning of the Fund, and in this regard encourages the United Nations funds and programmes and the specialized agencies to review and evaluate, where necessary, their partnership policies and practices in order to ensure the timely disbursement of funds from the Fund to implementing partners in order to ensure that resources are used in the most efficient, effective, accountable and transparent manner possible;

79. *Calls upon* all Member States, and invites the private sector and all concerned individuals and institutions, to consider increasing their voluntary contributions to the Central Emergency Response Fund in order to achieve an annual funding level of 1 billion United States dollars, and to continue to reinforce and strengthen the Fund as the global emergency response fund, and emphasizes that contributions should be additional to current commitments to humanitarian programming and should not be to the detriment of resources made available for international cooperation for development;

80. *Invites* Member States, the private sector and all other relevant stakeholders to harness their differentiated skills, capacities and resources, and also to consider voluntary contributions to humanitarian funding mechanisms;

81. *Strongly encourages* giving appropriate consideration to disaster risk reduction, including preparedness, and the building of resilience to disasters as integral elements of sustainable development and in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development[14] and promoting a complementary and coherent approach between those agendas and the Sendai Framework;

82. *Strongly encourages* all relevant actors to work to ensure a comprehensive, coherent, systematic and people-centred approach to managing risks, including through, as appropriate, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Sendai Framework, the Paris Agreement[3] and the New Urban Agenda;

[14] Resolution 69/313, annex.

83. *Takes note* of the World Humanitarian Summit, held in Istanbul, Turkey, on 23 and 24 May 2016, and of the report of the Secretary-General on the outcome of the World Humanitarian Summit;[15]

84. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to improve the international response to natural disasters and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventy-fourth session and to include in his report recommendations on how to ensure that humanitarian assistance is provided in ways supportive of the transition from relief to development.

[15] A/71/353.